

42006294

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

WILLIAM GINDLESPERGER

Examiner: Nguyen, C.

Serial No.

Group Art Unit: 2165

Filed: January 28, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"
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For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR OBTAINING LOWEST
BID FROM INFORMATION
PRODUCT VENDORS

Date of deposit JANUARY 28, 2002
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Timothy M. Hubalik

Printed name of person mailing

(S)

[Signature]
(Printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Box: Patent Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminarily to examination, please amend the above referenced application
as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before line 1, insert:

-- This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/383,371, filed
August 26, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference and claims priority to
provisional application No. 60/097,972, filed August 26, 1998. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and add the following claims:

16. A method for competitive bidding comprising steps of:

inputting a plurality of vendor records into a portion of an electronic memory, at least one of said vendor records having a vendor capability data representing a set of vendor manufacturing capabilities of the vendor identified by said record;

storing in a portion of a further electronic memory an association between a print information product vendor and a buyer;

inputting a buyer's invitation-for-bid data into a computer memory, said buyer's invitation-for-bid data having a buyer identification data, and having an invitation for bid on a print information product job from said buyer;

calculating a vendor requirement data from said buyer's invitation-for-bid data, said vendor requirement data representing a set of vendor manufacturing capabilities required for performing said print information product job;

comparing said vendor requirement data to a plurality of said vendor records having a buyer identification data field identifying the buyer from which said buyer's invitation-for-bid data was received;

identifying at least one vendor record as qualified, based on said comparing;

transmitting a vendor's invitation-for-bid data based on said buyer's invitation-for-bid data to each vendor identified by said at least one vendor record;

inputting into said general purpose computer a plurality of bid data, each from one of said vendors to which said vendor's invitation-for-bid data was transmitted, each of said bid data representing a bid price;

identifying a bid data from said received bid data having the lowest represented bid price;

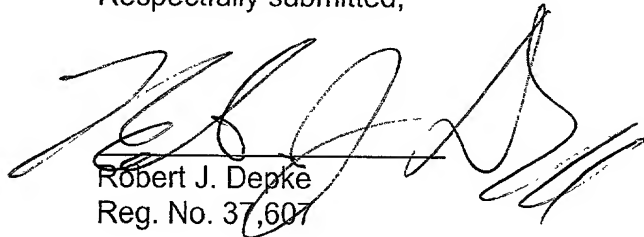
outputting a selected vendor data representing the identity of the vendor corresponding to the bid data identified by said identifying step; and

transmitting an order to the vendor represented by said selected vendor data.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment and consideration of this application in light of this continuation application. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 13-0019. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such as an extension, it is requested that the fee should also be charged to Deposit Account No. 13-0019.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 28, 2002